

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 SS-20 NSC-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 L-03 H-03 PM-07 DODE-00 /081 R

DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/PAN:PFMORRIS:JVC

APPROVED BY ARA-LA/PAN:PFMORRIS

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O 101544Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 005161

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PN, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

BELOW IS THE TEXT OF THE PRESS GUIDANCE FOR POSSIBLE  
QUESTIONS ON PANAMA WHICH MIGHT BE RAISED AT THE  
SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY. THE "SUGGESTED LINE  
OF REPLY" WILL BE USED BY ALL STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS  
ANSWERING INQUIRES FROM THE PRESS. WE DO NOT PLAN TO  
ELABORATE BEYOND THIS. WE SUGGEST YOU FOLLOW A SIMILAR  
LINE THERE.

BEGIN QUOTE:

QUESTION: WILL YOU COMMENT ON THE RECENT PRESS  
REPORTS THAT THE U.S. AND PANAMA HAVE AGREED ON 8 BASIC  
POINTS FOR A NEW CANAL TREATY AND THAT YOU WILL BE GOING  
TO PANAMA TO ANNOUNCE THIS AGREEMENT?

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

ADVISORY: IN PANAMA ON JANUARY 8 AMBASSADOR  
BUNKER AND FOREIGN MINISTER TACK AGREED ON A SET OF  
8 PRINCIPLES TO SERVE AS BASIS FOR FUTURE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS.  
AGREED PRINCIPLES ARE VERY GENERAL AND COVER:  
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REPLACEMENT OF THE 1903 TREATY; JURISDICTIONAL ARRANGE-

MENTS; USE OF LAND AND WATER AREAS; ECONOMIC BENEFITS  
FOR PANAMA; ADMINISTRATIVE AND DEFENSE MATTERS AND EXPAN-  
SION OF CANAL CAPACITY.

DESPITE SPECULATIVE PRESS STORIES, WE HAVE NOT  
OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED U.S.-PANAMANIAN AGREEMENT ON  
PRINCIPLES PENDING PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS WITH  
CONGRESS AND DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN YOU AND AMBASSADOR  
BUNKER REGARDING NEXT STEPS. END CONFIDENTIAL

SUGGESTED LINE OF REPLY: AMBASSADOR BUNKER RETURNED  
FROM PANAMA TUESDAY EVENING (JAN. 8) WHERE HE DISCUSSED  
WITH PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS A SET OF PRINCIPLES WHICH  
COULD SERVE AS A BASIS FOR FUTURE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.  
OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL BE REVIEWING THE RESULTS OF  
AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S DISCUSSIONS AND NO FINAL DECISION  
HAS BEEN TAKEN. WE ARE ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF CON-  
SULTING WITH INTERESTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. ANY PUBLIC  
STATEMENT WOULD COME AFTER COMPLETION OF THIS PROCESS.

AS FOR THE SECOND PART OF YOUR QUESTION, I WILL  
VISIT MEXICO TO MEET WITH LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN  
MINISTERS FEB. 21-23. BEYOND THIS TRIP, I HAVE MADE  
NO FIRM PLANS TO VISIT ANY OTHER LATIN AMERICAN  
COUNTRIES AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE,  
I HAVE A VERY SPECIAL INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA, AND  
AS SOON AS I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY I WANT TO TRY AND  
SCHEDULE SOME ADDITIONAL VISITS. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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**To:** PANAMA  
**Type:** TE  
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